

Great Artesian Basin

The Great Artesian Basin, or Great Australian Basin, the world's largest artesian-water area, is situated in east central Australia. This vast, arid lowland covers some 1,751,488 sq km (676,250 sq mi), more than one-fifth the territory of Australia. The artesian water comes from deep, underground rivers that originate principally in the GREAT DIVIDING RANGE to the east. The water is pumped from depths of as far down as 1,500 m (4,900 ft) and used to irrigate pasture lands. The daily discharge, 1,300,000,000 l (350,000,000 gal), is mostly lost through evaporation and seepage.